

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 557

By Tindell

A RESOLUTION to urge increased support and expansion of the film and television industry in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the 104th Tennessee General Assembly enacted the Visual Content Act of 2006, which established the mechanism to incentivize greater film and television production in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this body expressed its financial commitment to support the film and television industry in Tennessee by providing \$10,000,000 to be used to promote the expansion and growth of film and television production in our state; and

WHEREAS, we strongly support the Film, Entertainment and Music Commission and the Department of Economic and Community Development as they administer the film fund in a manner that will encourage more development in the film and television industry across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body should give serious consideration to providing future funding to this effort in order to allow this incentives program an appropriate opportunity to demonstrate viability; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge every state department and agency, including but not limited to the departments of education, revenue, finance and administration, labor and workforce development, economic and community development, tourism development, the Tennessee higher education commission, all Tennessee public higher education institutions, and the film, entertainment and music commission, to continue to work on ways to:

- a) bring more film and television projects to Tennessee;

- b) encourage more film and television companies to relocate or establish branch offices in Tennessee;
- c) build and expand the small business infrastructure of the film and television industry in Tennessee;
- d) support more film and television projects created and made by Tennessee filmmakers;
- e) increase liberal arts education in film and television arts in Tennessee;
- f) increase vocational training and formal education for professional filmmaking in Tennessee;
- g) support development of the interactive entertainment industry in Tennessee;
- h) increase opportunities for Tennessee to become a hub for the distribution of feature films, documentaries, and syndicated television series;
- i) increase development of manufacturing and distribution mechanisms for DVDs;
- j) increase marketing to both in-state and out-of-state corporations to use Tennessee film production professionals for their corporate/industrial videos, such as motivational, sales, safety, and instructional videos;
- k) explore initiatives to attract investors, private or institutional, to film and television projects made in Tennessee;
- l) provide sales tax incentives for High Definition (HD) equipment such as a sales tax abatement on the purchases of Professional High Definition Television production equipment that costing over \$10,000 or more per item. Such an incentive would increase the number of jobs, as more staffers are required for the production of HD projects, and due to increased HD programming consumers are encouraged to purchase HD televisions, DVD players, and other HD accessories thus increasing state sales taxes. With High Definition equipped and trained production personnel, Tennessee will be able to better compete for national and international projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and distributed to all departments, institutions, and commissions mentioned previously in the resolution.

